(e) the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CH AVAN): (a) Among the nuclear reactors in operation presently only Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units 1 and 2 use uranium from abroad for which fuel is available.

(b) to (e) While policies of individual countries may vary, actual availability of uranium from abroad is dependent on oprning up of civil nuclear trade. This requires exemption for India from the guidelines of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

Production in atomic power stations

†3238. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that production in atomic power stations of the country has come down to 30 per cent;

whether it is also a fact that some atomic power stations are on the verge of closure due to the shortage of fuel;

if so, the details of such atomic power stations, State wise; and

the details of the efforts being made by Government to increase the production capacity of atomic power stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Presently nuclear power stations are operating at around 50% capacity.

No, Sir.

Not applicable.

Efforts have been made by the Government to augment fuel supply by opening of new mines and augmenting processing capacity. The work on setting up a new ore-processing mill at Turamdih in Jharkhand has been completed ar ' the production is expected to commence shortly. Work has also started on a new uranium mine and mill at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh. Work is in progress to establish more uranium mining and processing projects.

New coal company in Orissa

3239. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether there is any proposal pending in coal to create new coal company in Orissa by dividing the Mahanadi Coalfield;

the number of cases of land looser that are still pending in Mahanadi Coalfield; and

if so, whether Government has any time-frame to settle these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.